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Serial No. 09/929,785

PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (currently amended) An electronic order and inventory information management
2 system for use in managing a restaurant, comprising:

3 a portable hand-held data entry terminal having a display and having means for inputting
4 restaurant order information, said data entry terminal having a transceiver for
5 transmitting said order information;

6 a database having a plurality of product records associated with products offered for sale at
7 the restaurant, each product record including at least a menu selling price, a present
8 inventory quantity, and an identifier associated with a vendor;

9 a host computer having a transceiver for receiving said transmitted order information, said
10 host computer being electrically connected to said database and to a wide-area
11 computer network;

12 ~~means-in wherein~~ said host computer includes means for decrementing a respective
13 inventory quantity of a respective product record corresponding to a respective
14 product when said respective product is included in said transmitted order
15 information; and

16 ~~means-in wherein~~ said host computer includes means for automatically transmitting a
17 signal along said wide-area computer network to a vendor computer corresponding
18 to a respective vendor identifier when said respective inventory quantity is less than
19 a predetermined quantity, said signal being indicative of an order for an additional
20 quantity of said respective product.

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1 2. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 1
2 wherein said host computer includes network circuitry for establishing a local area network
3 between said host computer and remote network terminals;

4 said order and inventory information management system further comprising:

5 a kitchen terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having
6 a display for displaying a portion of said transmitted order information
7 pertaining to a food order, said kitchen terminal adapted to transmit
8 messages back to said host computer indicative of fulfillment of said
9 food order;

10 a drink terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having a
11 display for displaying a portion of said transmitted order information
12 pertaining to a drink order, said drink terminal adapted to transmit
13 messages back to said host computer indicative of fulfillment of said
14 drink order.

1 3. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 1
2 wherein said host computer includes means for associating said transmitted order information
3 with respective menu selling prices from said database.

1 4. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 3
2 further comprising a billing terminal electrically connected to said local area network for
3 receiving said transmitted order information and said associated menu selling prices, said billing

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4 terminal including means for calculating a total order sales amount and means for printing said
5 transmitted order information and said total order sales amount.

1 5. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 1
2 wherein said order information includes at least one customer seating location identifier and at
3 least one food selection associated with said at least one seating location identifier, said at least
4 one food selection corresponding to a respective product record.

1 6. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 1
2 wherein said data entry terminal comprises:
3 a housing having front and back sides, said display positioned on said front side;
4 a handle fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and adapted to be gripped by a
5 waiter's hand for holding said data entry terminal.

1 7. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 6
2 further comprising a support member fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and
3 having a generally arcuate configuration adapted to rest upon a forearm of a waiter when holding
4 said data entry terminal.

1 8. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 1
2 wherein said means for inputting restaurant order information comprises:

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means for displaying on said display a graphical representation of a plurality of table locations and a plurality of seat locations associated with each table location;
means for displaying on said display a menu of food and drink items corresponding to said plurality of product records in said database; and
a keypad and a plurality of buttons on said data entry terminal adjacent said display adapted to enable a waiter to select a table and seat location of a patron whose order is being taken and to select respective food and drink items ordered by said patron.

9. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 8 further comprising means for displaying a graphical representation of a single table once a waiter has selected a table location of a patron whose order is being taken, said graphical representation of a single table being positioned adjacent said display of a menu of food items upon said display.

10. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 8 wherein said means for displaying a graphical representation of a plurality of table locations includes means for displaying only those table locations assigned to be served by a selected waiter.

11. (currently amended) An electronic order and inventory information management system for use in managing a restaurant, comprising:

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3 a portable hand-held data entry terminal having a display and having means for inputting
4 restaurant order information, said data entry terminal having a transceiver for
5 transmitting said order information;

6 a database having a plurality of product records associated with products offered for sale at
7 the restaurant, each product record including at least a menu selling price, a present
8 inventory quantity, and an identifier associated with a vendor;

9 a host computer having a transceiver for receiving said transmitted order information, said
10 host computer connected to said database and connected to a wide-area computer
11 network;

12 ~~means in wherein~~ said host computer includes means for associating said transmitted order
13 information with respective menu selling prices from said plurality of product
14 records in said database;

15 ~~means in wherein~~ said host computer includes means for decrementing a respective
16 inventory quantity of a respective product record corresponding to a respective
17 product when said respective product is included in said transmitted order
18 information;

19 ~~means in wherein~~ said host computer includes means for automatically transmitting a
20 signal along said wide-area network to a vendor computer corresponding to a
21 respective vendor identifier when said respective inventory quantity is less than a
22 predetermined quantity, said signal being indicative of an order for an additional
23 quantity of said respective product; and

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24 wherein said host computer includes network circuitry for establishing a local area network
25 between said host computer and remote network terminals positioned in the
26 restaurant.

1 12. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim
2 11 further comprising:

3 a kitchen terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having a display
4 for displaying a portion of said transmitted order information pertaining to a food
5 order, said kitchen terminal adapted to transmit messages back to said host computer
6 indicative of fulfillment of said food order; and

7 a drink terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having a display for
8 displaying a portion of said transmitted order information pertaining to a drink order,
9 said drink terminal adapted to transmit messages back to said host computer
10 indicative of fulfillment of said drink order.

1 13. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim
2 11 further comprising a billing terminal electrically connected to said local area network for
3 receiving said transmitted order information and said associated menu selling prices, said billing
4 terminal including means for calculating a total order sales amount and means for printing said
5 transmitted order information and said total order sales amount.

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1 14. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim
2 11 wherein said order information includes at least one customer seating location identifier and
3 at least one food selection associated with said at least one seating location identifier, said at
4 least one food selection corresponding to a respective product record.

1 15. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim
2 11 wherein said data entry terminal comprises:
3 a housing having front and back sides, said display positioned on said front side;
4 a handle fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and adapted to be gripped by a
5 waiter's hand for holding said data entry terminal; and
6 a support member fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and having a generally
7 arcuate configuration adapted to rest upon a forearm of a waiter when holding said
8 data entry terminal.

1 16. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim
2 11 wherein said means for inputting restaurant order information comprises:
3 means for displaying on said display a graphical representation of a plurality of table
4 locations and a plurality of seat locations associated with each table location;
5 means for displaying on said display a menu of food and drink items corresponding to said
6 plurality of product records in said database; and

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7 a keypad and a plurality of buttons on said data entry terminal adjacent said display
8 adapted to enable a waiter to select a table and seat location of a patron whose order
9 is being taken and to select respective food and drink items ordered by said patron.

1 17. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim
2 16 further comprising means for displaying a graphical representation of a single table once a
3 waiter has selected a table location of a patron whose order is being taken, said graphical
4 representation of a single table being positioned adjacent said display of a menu of food items
5 upon said display.

1 18. (currently amended) An electronic order and inventory information management
2 system for use in managing a restaurant, comprising:

3 a portable hand-held data entry terminal having a housing with front and back sides and
4 defining an interior space, said data entry device further comprising:

5 a display positioned on said front side;

6 means ~~on said front side~~ for inputting restaurant order information;

7 a transceiver positioned in said interior space for transmitting said order
8 information;

9 a handle fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and adapted to be
10 gripped by a waiter, whereby to hold said data entry unit;

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11 a support member fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and having
12 a generally arcuate support member adapted to rest upon an arm of a
13 waiter when said waiter is holding said handle;
14 a database having a plurality of product records associated with food and drink products
15 offered for sale at the restaurant, each product record including at least a menu
16 selling price, a present inventory quantity, and an identifier associated with a vendor;
17 a host computer having a transceiver for receiving said transmitted order information, said
18 host computer including network circuitry for establishing a local area network
19 between said host computer and remote network terminals;
20 a kitchen terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having a display
21 for displaying a portion of said transmitted order information pertaining to a food
22 order, said kitchen terminal adapted to transmit messages back to said host computer
23 indicative of fulfillment of said food order;
24 a drink terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having a display for
25 displaying a portion of said transmitted order information pertaining to a drink order,
26 said drink terminal adapted to transmit messages back to said host computer
27 indicative of fulfillment of said drink order; and
28 ~~means-in~~ wherein said host computer includes means for decrementing a respective
29 inventory quantity of a respective product record corresponding to a respective
30 product when said respective product is included in said transmitted order
31 information.

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1 19. (currently amended) The order and inventory information management system as
2 in claim 18 wherein:

3 said host computer is connected to a wide-area network; and

4 ~~said order and inventory information management system further comprising means in said~~

5 host computer includes means for automatically transmitting a signal along said

6 wide-area network to a vendor computer corresponding to a respective vendor

7 identifier when said respective inventory quantity is less than a predetermined

8 quantity, said signal being indicative of an order for an additional quantity of said

9 respective product.

1 20. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim
2 18 wherein said means for inputting restaurant order information comprises:

3 means for displaying on said display a graphical representation of a plurality of table

4 locations and a plurality of seat locations associated with each table location;

5 means for displaying on said display a menu of food and drink items corresponding to said

6 plurality of product records in said database; and

7 a keypad and a plurality of buttons on said data entry terminal adjacent said display

8 adapted to enable a waiter to select a table and seat location of a patron whose order

9 is being taken and to select respective food and drink items ordered by said patron.